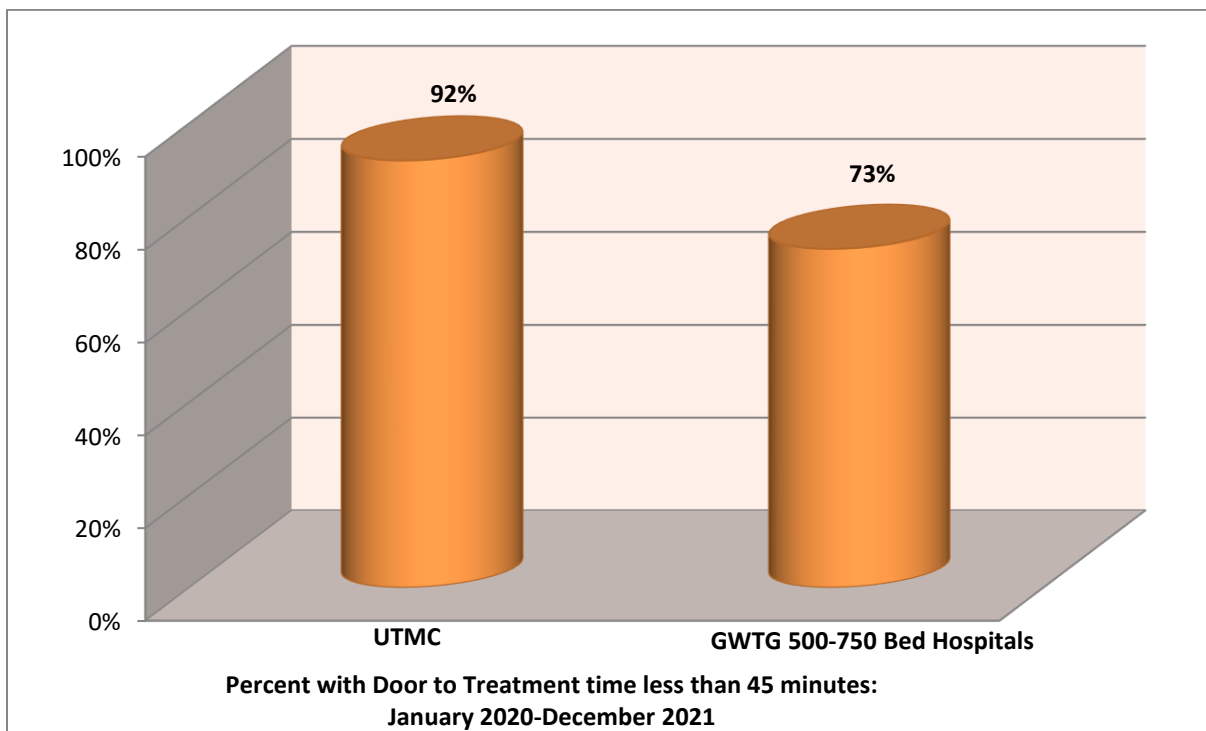


Current guidelines for the treatment of ischemic stroke include recommendations for treatment with intravenous (IV) thrombolytic medication in patients meeting specific criteria. This medication is referred to as a “clot-busting” medication. IV thrombolytics must be given within a specified time frame in order help decrease disability from ischemic stroke. Strategies to reduce the amount of time it takes for evaluation and treatment of stroke are an important part of UT Medical Center’s (UTMC) Stroke Team operations.

A national emphasis, led by the American Stroke Association, on decreasing “door to treatment” times for patients receiving IV thrombolytic has resulted in improvement in treatment times across the country. The goal set for the initiative is that at least 85% of patients receiving IV thrombolytic will be treated in 60 minutes or less. UTMC, recognized as a Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus facility, has established a team approach to ensure timely treatment of stroke. Our times are consistently better than the 60-minute target with 92% of patients treated in 45 minutes or less.



UTMC = The University of Tennessee Medical Center

GWTG = *Get with the Guidelines*

Source: *Get with the Guidelines*, used by permission.